

From: DeeKay
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/26/01 8:39am
Subject: Microsoft/DOJ "seattlement"..

Dear Sir or Madam,

even though i am not a US citizen i'd like to use this opportunity to express my strong concern about the so-called "seattlement", a cave-in that is without a doubt previously unheard of.

The seattlement has so many holes in it that its effective uselessness is obvious to any journalist, expert and trial-interested person, yet the DoJ still thinks it's a great idea!

I also do NOT see ANY remedies in the seattlement, Microsoft has broken the law in various way, something that even the Court of Appeals agreed to when they took back the verdict that Judge Jackson had issued! Now i wonder: Where are the remedies for the crimes Microsoft has done? They did blackmail Compaq, IBM, Apple and others, and somehow my feeling for justice tells me that even though it's a settlement Microsoft should be punished for what it has done!

Or, as one journalist put it: Microsoft is free to enjoy the fruits of its law-violations to the full extent still, and will be even after the settlement! That is something that has not happened before, and it just seems so painfully wrong!

Besides, the DoJ also seems to have a memory leak in other ways, cause i can't remember that Microsoft's faked Evidence-Videos or lying in court, as well as making fun of the court in totally ridiculous subpoenas (Bill Gates: "I don't remember what i meant when i said 'crush Netscape'" etc!) and by releasing a crippled version of Windows just to spite the court, even though it's been proven that the Internet Explorer can be removed from Windows98 without leaving a trace have ever had any consequences!

Like said, i am not an american citizen, but for outsiders it seems like Microsoft can behave in utter disrespect to the court and still not face any consequences for that at all! This casts a rather bad light on US Judicative in my eyes! Or does this only account for multi-billion Dollar companies?

Please, i ask you in the name of countless others: the world is looking at the DoJ to put the raging Godzilla that Microsoft has become into chains to help the economy worldwide by re-enabling competition again (there is basically none at all in the areas Microsoft has a monopoly in!), just like you did with IBM and Standard Oil before! Doesn't the american idea of a free market base itself largely on a living market with lots of competitors, that will result in lower prices and better products for the consumer?

Well - how on earth can you be so sure that Windows/IE/MS Office is the

"best" for consumers when there is basically no noteworthy competition (in respect to market share!) at all around? It might help considering the fact that Microsoft has had a monopoly in operating systems right from the start in 1981, and it has never ever faced *real* competition (meaning: it has never had less than 80% market share, even when DR-DOS was around!) there. The other monopolies with IE and Office were only achieved through massive "leveraging" by integrating both deeply into Windows, a practice that will continue unthrottled in spite of the settlement, just look at what they already integrated into Windows XP even though the trial was still going on!

With best regards,
Daniel Kottmair